

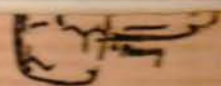
MEM RM  
Wood (Lucille)  
Collection  
Scrapbook  
1976

# PHOTO ALBUM

MEM R M  
Wood (Lucille) Collection  
Scrapbooks  
1976

MEM 97

E.C.C.C.  
MEMORABILIA ROOM



# Highest Alumni Honor Goes TO ECJC Instructor



**Lucille Wood Named Alumnus of Year,  
Honored At Alumni Banquet Nov. 6**

By **NELL ALLEN**

Lucille Wood, head of the health and physical education department of East Central, has been named the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year and was honored at the Alumni banquet, November 6.

Her selection was based on her valuable contributions to the school and her outstanding work with the Alumni Association.

Miss Wood, now completing her second term as president of the EC Alumni Association, has been an active officer of the association for three years. Under her adept guidance, the association has made many contributions to EC. Included are the replacement of Mrs. Janie Sullivan's picture in Sullivan Center and the placement of Miss Ethel Burton's picture in Burton Library. The women's physical education field, contributions toward the purchase of a trophy case, the 10 alumni memorial trophies, the 1940 state championship football team picture, and a football used by the 1940 team have also been given to the school by the Association since Miss Wood became president of it.

Miss Wood sent in entries and was instrumental in the selection of ECJC graduates by the Outstanding Young Men of America and the Outstanding Young Women of America. During her tenure as president, the selection of an Outstanding Teacher and an Outstanding Alumnus of the year was begun by the association.

In the two years of her presidency, the Alumni Association has sent out 2,000 news letters, and she has compiled an alumni file with over 1,000 current addresses of ECJC alumni.

Homecoming was especially meaningful this year to the alumni because of the collection of pictures

and papers Miss Wood placed on display. Among these were pictures of all ECJC coaches, of ECJC all-state and All-American athletes, of championship teams, a 1934 Spher, a 1938 War-Whoop, the first edition of the Tom-Tom, the first school annual, and a sign for the women's P. E. field presented by the alumni of Winston County.

Miss Wood's degrees include an A. A. from EC, a B. S. and M. A. in health and P. E. from the University of Southern Mississippi. She also holds an AA certificate in Guidance.

In addition to her busy life on campus, Miss Wood participate actively in the M. E. A., the Department of Classroom Teachers, Delta Kappa Gamma, National Association for Health, P. E. and Recreation, National Junior College Association and the Southern Association for College Women P. E. Teachers. She has also held the presidency of the ECJC Faculty Club.

The Outstanding Alumnus of the Year is elected by the executive committee after nomination by Alumni. One of the letters nominating Miss Wood read: "We want to nominate Lucille Wood as Alumnus of the Year because of the outstanding public relations job she has been doing in the capacity as president of the Alumni Association. We are sure that there are many former students such as ourselves who had completely lost touch with the school before she began this work. We feel that the projects sponsored and accomplished by the association this past year are large a credit to her hard work."

Miss Wood is a native of Louisville and Winston County and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George S. Wood.

**ALUMNUS OF YEAR**—Lucille Wood, president of Alumni Association for the past two years, has been chosen as Alumnus of the Year by fellow Alumni and was honored at Alumni Banquet. Miss Wood, health and PE instructor at East Central, stands by Alumni Memorial Trophies which represent one of her many endeavors while serving as president of the association.

## STATE J.C. ACTION

# ECJC Girls Win Cage Tourney

DECATUR — East Central Junior College girls defeated Holmes 47-43 to take top honors in the womens' junior college state tournament.

Holmes earned the right to play in the finals by defeating Gulf Coast 56-51. Ora Lee Duren, former high school All-Star from Vaiden, proved to be too much for Gulf Coast. She was assisted in the scoring department by Danna Crowder and Ann Floyd with 16 points each.

In one of the most exciting games of the tournament East Central downed Hinds 52-49. Carolyn Prestage took top honors in the scoring department with 27 points. East Central won the game at the free throw line.

East Central connected on 73% to Hinds' 44%.

Rita Gibbon, former high school All-Stater from Hickory tossed in 22 points to aid East Central in gaining the top spot in the state against Holmes. East Central's strong defense held Ora Lee Duren to 16 points and cut off the Holmes scoring attack.

Named to the All-State team were: Renee Willis, East Central; Carolyn Prestage, Hinds; Gay Chandler, Co-Lin; Sandy Turner, Hinds; Barbara Lee, Meridian; Sheila Dees, Gulf Coast; Ora Lee Duren, Holmes; Rita Gibbon, East Central; Terri Robinson, Gulf Coast; Melody Mixon, Gulf Coast; Margie Harmon, Holmes; and Deb Ainsworth, Co-Lin.

Named to the Honorable Mention All-State team were: Jean Fitzhugh, Hinds; Debbie Chisolm, Meridian; Ann Floyd, Holmes; Barbara Rogers, East Mississippi; Jackie Cooper, Co-Lin; Annette Duncan, East Central; Jo Munn, East Central; and Monica Smith, Pearl River.

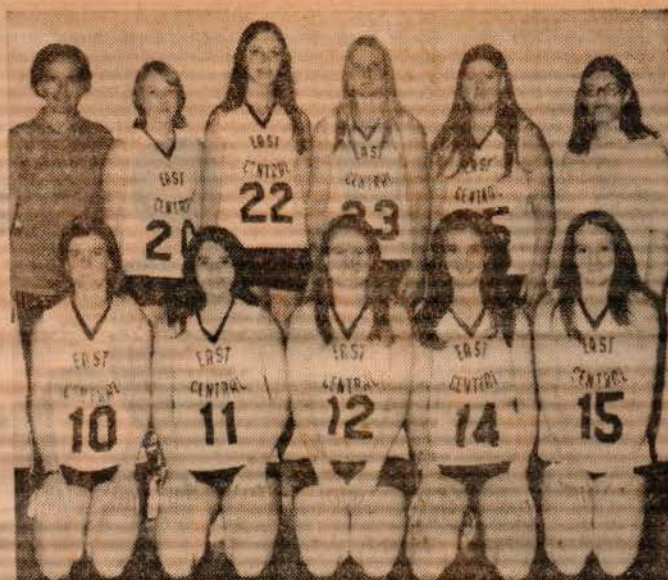
The Most Valuable Player award in Mississippi junior college action for the year went to East Central's Renee Willis. Willis took 2nd place scoring honors for the tournament with 56 points, falling one point behind teammate Rita Gibbon who picked up 57 points to take top scoring honors. Willis is a former All-Stater and Mississippi All-Star from Neshoba Central.



Pete Lucovich ↑

## State JC Champions

The East Central Junior College girls defeated Holmes Jr. College 47-43 to take top honors in the Women's Junior College State Tournament, held recently at Decatur. In one of the most exciting games of the tournament, East Central also downed Hinds Jr. College 52-49. Members of the ECJC team are, from left to right: (front row) Annette Duncan of Neshoba Central, Deborah Shoemaker of Lake, Gail Keller of Little Rock, Rita Gibbon of Hickory, and Jo Munn of Decatur; (back row) Lucille Wood, coach, of Louisville, Sylvia Culberson of Neshoba Central, Sherry Wilcher of Edinburg, Renee Willis of Neshoba Central, Billie McCrory of Lake, and Manager Debra Luke of Walnut Grove.



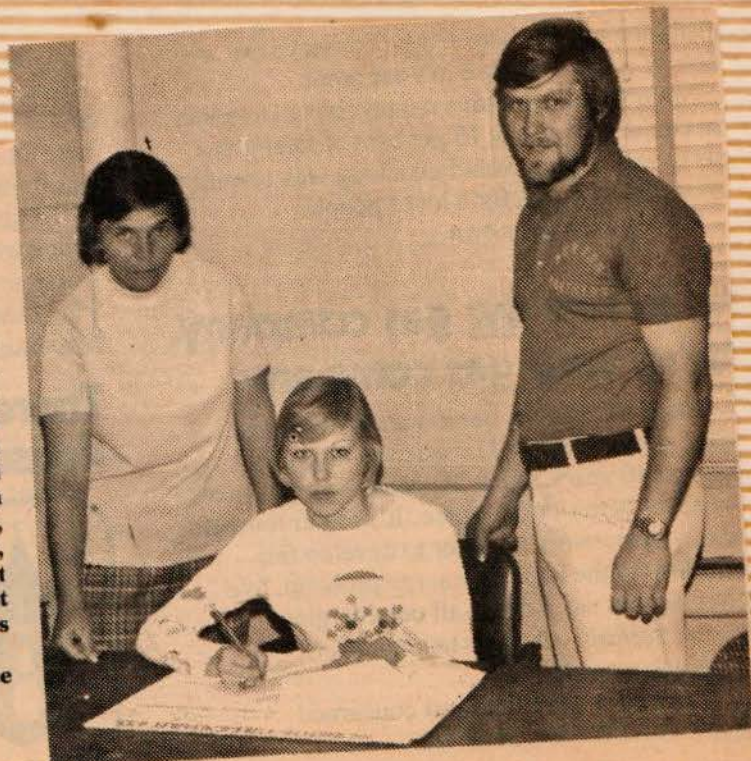
## MVP Honors To Willis

The Most Valuable Player Award in Mississippi Junior College action for the year went to East Central Junior College's Renee Willis, a former All-Stater and Mississippi All-Star from Neshoba Central High School at Philadelphia. She is pictured with ECJC coach Lucille Wood of Louisville, who coached the team to the Women's Junior College State Championship by defeating Holmes 47-43.



**SIGNS SCHOLARSHIP** - Tammie Tadlock signs a Basketball Scholarship with East Central Junior College. Coach Lucille Wood, women's basketball coach for E.C.J.C. and Coach Ray Riley, girls basketball coach at Morton High School, share this moment of joy during the signing. Tammie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Tadlock of Morton. Honors won by Tammie are: All Central Mississippi Classic, All South Mississippi, All Little Dixie, Best L.D. Defensive Player, Hustler Award, Most Assist Award, Captain Award, Most Athletic Girl, and Best Girls Scholastic Athlete.

Photo by Vernon Pace



**Tammie Tadlock Signs E.C.J.C. Scholarship**

# IJC, East Central Seek Championship

DECATUR — North Division representatives Itawamba and East Central will meet tonight to decide the over-all Mississippi Junior College Conference women's basketball championship.

Itawamba scored an 83-75 triumph over Southwest Mississippi and host East Central downed Copiah-Lincoln, 68-59, here Friday night in the opening round of the MJCC state tournament.

East Central won the North Division tournament earlier in the week by upsetting Itawamba, the regular-season titlist, 81-80 and now will have to do it again.

"They were just the better team that particular night," said Itawamba Coach Billy Caples. "I'm glad we'll get another shot at them."

It will be the fourth meeting between the teams, IJC winning the first two.

The Lady Indians, 19-4, used a balance scoring attack to down Southwest, 14-9, in a rematch of last year's MJCC title game.

Jeannie Lloyd led Itawamba with 19 points, Lisa Hooker and Nancy Murphree adding 17 apiece and Charlotte Jackson, Kathy McPher-

rin and Terri Warren 10 each.

Southwest, which won the South tourney as the No. 5 seed earlier in the week, got 32 from Debbie Dantin, 17 from Coot Gilley and 10 from Ora Burton.

East Central, 17-5, got 31 from Evelyn Bender, 14 from Jeannette Barnes, 13 from Diana Lyons and 10 from Julie Latham to knock off Co-Lin, now 16-6. The Lady Wolves were led by Cindy Hodges with 22 and Tanya Ponder with 17.

Itawamba, East Central and Co-Lin all are expected to participate in the National Junior College Athletic Assn. Region 7 tournament, which begins next Thursday in Cleveland, Tenn. IJC won the event last year and reached the semifinals of the national tournament.

Southwest has finished its season.



# Holmes Pick To Take Junior College Crown

Bennie Kimble was starring for Southeastern Louisiana University when Holmes last won a Mississippi Junior College Conference basketball championship, way back in 1957.

Now Kimble's Bulldogs, newly crowned North Division titlists, rate as the team to beat in the MJCC state tournament beginning tonight at Southwest Mississippi in Summit.

"Well, I don't know if we should be favored," says Kimble. "It'll be a change. We're used to being the underdog."

Holmes meets host Southwest, the South Division runner-up, in the opening game at 6:30 p.m. with North runner-up Northwest Mississippi and South champion Copiah-Lincoln hooking up at 8:30 in the nightcap.

The women's state championship was decided Saturday with East Central pulling a surprise by beating defending titleholder Itawamba for a second straight time, 86-77.

With a 14-10 over-all record and 8-6 North mark, Holmes was only the No. 4 seed heading into last week's division tournament.

But the Bulldogs scored three straight victories, capped by a 58-48 decision over Northwest in the title game.

"The big win (60-59) was the one over Northeast Mississippi," says Kimble. "They had beaten us twice before and we had to win that one to qualify for the state tournament."

Holmes struggled early on,

standing 3-6 at one juncture.

But 6-4 center Milton Griffin became eligible at the start of the second semester and Bert Davis, a 6-4 guard, recovered from a broken ankle soon after that — and the 'Dogs were off and winging.

"They gave us good defensive play, which we hadn't been getting," notes Kimble. "We lost one game by something like 96-93. Those guys stabilized us."

Holmes is 11-7 since Wilson's arrival, 9-3 with Davis on hand.

No advocate of run-and-gun, Kimble likes a pattern offense that evenly distributes the scoring. Guard Milton Griffin leads the way at 15.6 points per game, followed by Foozy Dyer at 15.2, Junior Reese 14.1, Wilson 12.0 and Davis 8.4, with nine assists each outing.

As a Johnny-come-lately, Holmes can't hold a candle to Southwest, which didn't roll over and play dead as expected in the South tourney.

The No. 8 seed with a 6-14 season and 3-11 division mark, the Bears shocked top-seeded Gulf Coast in the first round, added Meridian to the checklist and led Co-Lin until the final three minutes of the championship game.

"Anything can happen on a given night," says Southwest Coach Oliver Young. "Regardless of what happens, we feel very fortunate to have come this far."

The Bears have a superstar type in 6-3 wingman Robert "Guta" Felder, averaging 26.5 points per game. His high game was 40 against Utica and he had 39 the eve-

ning of the big upset over Gulf Coast.

Also on hand for Southwest are Robert E. Felder (no relation), Dennis Prowell, Wally Morris and Thomas Young.

Northwest, like Holmes, plays a deliberate game and the Rangers are guided by Ken "Cat" Robbins — rumored to be the No. 1 candidate for the head coaching job at Ole Miss, should Robert "Cob" Jarvis be shown the door (which seems certain, according to all reliable reports).

The Rangers, 18-8, get their scoring from Curtis Spann, Phil Holden and Stanley Black while the playmaker is Kenny Robbins, Jr., who should know his coach's system by this time.

Co-Lin hasn't been outrebounded in any game this season and the Wolves, 15-7, rely on the board strength — and shooting — of 6-5 Greg Franklin and 6-4 Bill Logan. Other starters are J.B. Byrd, John Beard and Mike Jones.

East Central's women closed out their season on a winning note by beating Itawamba a second straight time. The Lady Warriors had done it four days earlier, 81-80, in the North Division final.

Those two setbacks are the only times IJC has tasted defeat to a junior college opponent.

But East Central, 18-5, closes up shop while the Lady Indians, 19-5, march into the National Junior College Athletic Assn. Region 7 tournament beginning Thursday in Cleveland, Tenn.

"We're not a member of the association and they are," said East Central Coach Lucille Wood.

Evelyn Bender had 26 points, Diana Lyons 23, Jeannette Barnes 20 and Julie Latham 11 for the Lady Warriors while Itawamba got 24 from Charlotte Jackson and 22 from Jeannie Lloyd.

## ECJC Girls Reach Final

DECATUR — East Central took a big step towards the overall Mississippi Junior College women's title as Evelyn Bender led the Warriorettes to a 68-59 win over the Co-Lin women.

In the other game Itawamba beat Southwest 83-75. That sets up tonight's finals at 7 p.m. between Itawamba and East Central. The two met last week for the North Division title with East Central taking the win.

Bender scored 21 of East Central's 32 points in the final half to ease the Warriorettes into the finals. She finished with 31 after East Central led 36-35 at the half.

Jeanette Barnes added 14, Diana Lyons 13 and Julie Latham 10 for East Central, now 17-5. Cindy Hodges had 22 and Tanya Ponder 17 for Co-Lin.

Itawamba led 41-38 at the half. Jeannie Loyd had 21, Nancy Murphree 17, Lisa Hooker 15 and Charlotte Jackson 10 for Itawamba, now 20-4. Debbie Dinten had 32, Coot Gilley 17 and Ora Burton 10 for Southwest.

Itawamba will travel to the National Junior College tournament regionals even if it loses. East Central is not a member of the regional teams.

EC (68)				Co-Lin (59)			
Player	fg	ft	tp	Player	fg	ft	tp
Bender	14	3	3	Hodges	11	0	2
Barnes	6	2	1	Ponder	5	7	1
Lyons	6	1	1	Cole	3	2	8
Latham	4	2	1	Little	3	1	7
Carter	0	0	0	Alexander	2	1	5
Pearson	0	0	0	Walker	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	Wiginton	0	0	0
				Brown	0	0	0
TOTALS	30	8	8	TOTALS	24	11	30
ECJC				36	22		-66
CO-LIN				25	24		-59

Fouls: ECJC 20, Co-Lin 17

## Junior College Women Opening State Tourney

DECATUR — Despite an 81-80 loss to East Central for the North Division tournament championship earlier in the week, Itawamba rates as the team to beat in the Mississippi Junior College Conference women's state basketball tourney opening here today.

The Lady Indians of Coach Billy Caples meet Southwest Mississippi, the South Division titlist, in the opener at 6:30 p.m. with Copiah-Lincoln of the South meeting host East Central of the North in the finale at 8.

The championship game is set for 7:30 Saturday night and Caples has already indicated that Itawamba will play in the National Junior College Athletic Assn. Region 7 tourney at Cleveland, Tenn. next week.

A year ago, the Lady Indians won the Region 7 crown and reached the NJCAA semi-finals.

The setback to East Central was the first against JC competition this season for Itawamba, now 18-4, with the previous three losses to Ole Miss. Caples' crew is led by Nancy Murphree and Lisa Hooker while Southwest, 14-8, looks to Coot Gilley and Debbie Dantin. The

Lady Bears won the South title for a second consecutive year despite the loss of five of last season's top six players.

East Central is 16-5 and depends on the scoring provided by Evelyn Bender and Diana Lyons while Co-Lin, 16-5, is headed by Tanya Ponder and Cindy Hodges.

The last No. 1 seed to get its eye blackened was defending state women's champion Itawamba, an 81-80 victim of No. 3 East Central. It was the first loss of the season against junior college competition for the Lady Indians, who previously had lost three times to Ole Miss.

Evelyn Bender had 24, Diana Lyons 20, Donna Carter 14, Jeanette Barnes 12 and Julie Latham 11 for East Central while IJC got 30 from Nancy Murphree, 19 from Lisa Hooker, 14 from Charlotte Jackson and 12 from Jeannie Lloyd.

All four women's finalists go into the state tourney, Friday and Saturday at East Central.

The men's state tourney will be at Southwest, all four finalists participating regardless of tonight's outcomes.

10 JACKSON DAILY NEWS A-Monday, Feb. 23, 1976

The women's state championship was decided Saturday with East Central pulling a surprise by beating defending titleholder Itawamba for a second straight time, 86-77.

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THURSDAY

## ECJC Sweeps

ELLISVILLE — East Central Junior College took a pair of contests away from Jones County Junior College in basketball action Thursday night.

The boys contest saw the lead see-saw back-and-forth during the latter stages of the contest.

At one point Jones led 71-70 with time ticking away. The two squads swapped buckets giving Jones a 73-72 lead. ECJC went ahead 74-73 and never again trailed.

The final score was 88-86 in favor of the Warriors from Decatur.

In the girls contest the Warriorettes jumped out to a big lead over the Lady Bobcats, but saw the JCJC ladies close the gap before ECJC opened up their lead.

The Warriorettes were ahead the entire contest.

The ECJC girls are now 4-1 on the year and will face the team that gave them their only setback tonight, East Mississippi.

ECJC (4-1) — Jim Duce 11-6-28, Billy Patrick 10-5-12, Brattle 5-0-10, Phil Shepard 4-0-12, Townsend 4-0-4, Shelton Ricks 1-1-3, Gary 1-1-3, Totals 36-11-58, Fouls 22, Fouled out 1.

JONES (3-2) — Pulley 5-0-10, Le 1-1-3, Samuels 5-0-10, Terry 5-0-12, Nichols 1-1-3, Duckworth 1-1-3, Blakeley 1-1-3, Sherry 1-1-3, Totals 36-14-58, Fouls 19, Fouled out 1.

Halftime score: ECJC 34-18, Jones 24-18.

ECJC (4-1) — Esther Thomas 13, Bobbie Collier 8, Carla Holley 4, Faye Russell 1, Charlene Jones 24, JoAnn Elkins 1, Faye Quinn 0, Joyce Watkins 10, Kathy Keaton 0, Mona Tucker 0, Totals 36-14-58, Fouls 15.

JACKSON (5-0) — Pam Avery 11, Wilhelmina Peete 6, Carolyn Martin 12, Delora Avery 10, Vanessa Chism 2, Brenda Caldwell 6, Valerie Butler 12, Totals 20-17-58, Fouls 20.

## ECJC Women In Semis

HARRIMAN, Tenn. — East Central Junior College's women advanced to the semifinals of the Region Seven National Junior College Athletic Association tournament here at Rome State College, but the East Mississippi Lionettes weren't as fortunate.

ECJC's Joyce Watkins scored with two seconds left on the clock to give the Warriorettes a 61-59 win over Jackson (Tenn.) State Community College. EMJC fell to the No. 1 team in Tennessee, Shelby State, 94-78.

Charlene Jones paced East Central with 24 points, while Ester Thomas added 13 and Watkins 10. Valerie Butler and Carolyn Martin had 12 each and Pam Avery added 11 and

Delora Avery 10 for Jackson State.

ECJC trailed 38-31 at the half. East Mississippi was led by Deborah Stancil with 17 points, while Kay Pierce added 15. Allie Simonds 13, Rita Higginbotham and Annie Cross 12 each. Mary Boatwright had 32, Shirley Walton 22 and Annette Jones 14 for Shelby.

EMJC was behind 46-37 at the half.

East Central plays Coahoma tonight at 6.

ECJC (6-1) — Ester Thomas 13, Bobbie Collier 8, Carla Holley 4, Faye Russell 1, Charlene Jones 24, JoAnn Elkins 1, Faye Quinn 0, Joyce Watkins 10, Kathy Keaton 0, Mona Tucker 0, Totals 36-14-58, Fouls 15.

JACKSON (5-0) — Pam Avery 11, Wilhelmina Peete 6, Carolyn Martin 12, Delora Avery 10, Vanessa Chism 2, Brenda Caldwell 6, Valerie Butler 12, Totals 20-17-58, Fouls 20.

## Facts About East Central

Location.....Decatur, Ms.  
 Year Established.....1928  
 President.....Dr. Charles V. Wright  
 Dean of Students.....Denver Brackeen  
 Enrollment.....1142  
 Supporting Counties.....Leake, Neshoba, Scott.  
                                           Newton, Winston

Athletic Nickname.....Warriorettes and  
                                           Warriors  
 School Colors.....Black & Gold

### COACHING STAFF

Joe Clark	Lucille Wood
Men's Basketball	Tennis
Lucille Wood	Tennie Coats
Women's Basketball	Baseball
Ken Pouncy & Tennie Coats	
Football	

Athletic Conference.....Miss. Jr. College  
Curriculums Offered

Agriculture	Music
Business Administration	Intensive Business
Business Education	Secretarial Science
Elementary Education	Drafting
Secondary Education	Cosmetology
Physical Education	Auto Mechanics
Industrial Education	Body and Fender
Pre-Engineering	Electricity
Technical Data Processing	Refrigeration &
Home Economics	Air-Conditioning
Liberal Arts	Machine Shop
Medical Services	Radio and T. V. Repair
Pre-Pharmacy	Welding
Pre-Nursing	

Off Campus Programs in.....Louisville  
                                           Carthage  
                                           Philadelphia  
                                           Forest  
                                           Choctaw Central

## 1975-76 Schedule

Date	Day of Week	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 18	Tues.	Co-Lin	There	6:00
Nov. 21	Fri.	Meridian	Here	6:00
Nov. 24 & 25	Mon. & Tues.	Holmes, East Miss. Gulf Coast & E.C.	Here	6:00 & 7:45
Dec. 4	Thurs.	Itawamba	Here	6:00
Dec. 5	Fri.	Northeast	Here	6:00
Dec. 8	Mon.	Pearl River	There	6:00
Dec. 11	Thurs.	Northwest	There	6:00
Jan. 8	Thurs.	Holmes	Here	6:00
Jan. 13	Tues.	East Miss.	There	6:00
Jan. 17	Sat.	Pearl River	Here	6:00
Jan. 22	Thurs.	Itawamba	There	6:00
Jan. 23	Fri.	Northeast	There	6:00
Jan. 29	Thurs.	Northwest	Here	6:00
Jan. 31	Sat.	Gulf Coast	There	7:30
Feb. 7	Sat.	Meridian	There	6:00
Feb. 10	Tues.	East Miss.	Here	6:00
Feb. 12	Thurs.	Holmes	There	6:00
Feb. 19, 20 21		North Half		
Feb. 26, 27		State		

# -1976

No.    High School    Class    Height    H.S. Coach

## *Vicky Cumberland*

24    Edinburg    Fresh.    5-7    George Hailey

In high school Vicky received the following Basketball honors: All-State, All-North Miss., All-Cherokee Conference 2 years., All-Carthage Tournament and All-Leake County. She is a physical Education Major and the daughter of Mrs. Elton Savell of Carthage and Mr. Jessie Cumberland of Philadelphia.

## *Barbara Harrison*

25    Beulah Hub.    Soph.    5-9    Gary Penson

Barbara's parents are Mr. & Mrs. Hulon W. Harrison of Little Rock. At EC Barbara is majoring in Secondary Education. High School Basketball honors include: All-Cherokee Conference 2 years, All-District Five 2 years, All-South Miss. and The Philadelphia Holiday Classic.

## *Julie Latham*

30    Morton    Fresh.    5-9    Ray Riley

Julie is also an Academic Scholarship Winner at EC. In high school she was chosen to the Coaches All-Star Team for 1975. Her parents are Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Latham, Jr., Forkville. She has chosen Elementary Education as her field of study at EC.

## *Jeanette Barnes*

32    Carthage    Fresh.    5-7    Jo Ed Kea

Jeanette was active in both Basketball and Track at Carthage. In Basketball she was All-District Four Class A for 2 years, and All-Choctaw 2 years. In track she won the following events her senior year: 1st in 100 yd. dash District Four; 1st in the 75 yd. dash, 1st in 100 yd. dash, and 2nd in the 50 yd. dash in the Choctaw Conference Meet, 1st in the 50 yd. and 75 yd. dashes in North Ms. She is a Physical Education Major and the daughter of Mrs. Mable Barnes of Carthage.

Statistician: Brenda Harlson - Soph. Scott Central  
Manager: Mike Hatcher - Soph. Nanih Waiya  
Coach: Lucille Wood - University of Southern Ms.

# WARRIORETTES 1975

No. High School Class Height H.S. Coach



## Freda Jo Crotwell

12 Morton Fresh. 5-4 Ray Riley

Freda Jo was selected to the All-State Class A Team her Junior and Senior Years. She was also a member of the Over-All Little Dixie Team her Senior year. She is an Intensive Business Major at EC. Freda Jo's parents are Mr. & Mrs. Billy Crotwell of Morton.

## Linda Quinn

13 Noxapater Fresh. 5-6 David Vowell

Linda was selected to the All-Big Black Conference 3 years and All-District four 5 years. Her parents are Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Quinn of Noxapater. Linda was also awarded an Academic Scholarship to EC and is majoring in Physical Education.

## Runnie Hill

14 Carthage Fresh. 5-3 Jo Ed Kea

High School Basketball honors for Runnie at Carthage were: Carthage Inv., All-State, All Leake County 73-74, and All Choctaw Conference 1975. In track she won 1st place in the baseball throw in the Choctaw Conference Meet. Her mother is Mrs. Elnora Hill of Carthage and at EC Runnie is majoring in Physical Education.

## Cheryl Hicks

15 Hickory Soph. 5-7 Richard Harris

Cheryl was an All-Cherokee Conference Team member her senior year and was chosen to the All-South Miss. Team. At EC she is majoring in Liberal Arts. Her Parents are Mr. & Mrs. Glen Hicks of Hickory.

No. High School Class Height H.S. Coach

## Evelyn Bender

20 Newton Soph. 5-7 Jimmy Link

As a freshman at EC Evelyn was chosen First Team Junior College All-State. She received EC's best Offensive Player Award averaging 27.9 points per game. In high school she was All-District Four 2 years. All-Raleigh Inv., All-Central Miss Classic, and Philadelphia Holiday Classic 2 years. Her senior year Evelyn was a member of the Coaches All-Star Team. She is a Physical Education major, and her parents are Mr. & Mrs. N.B. Bender of Lawrence.

## Diana Lyons

21 Neshoba. Cen. Fresh. 5-11 James Hodges

At Neshoba Central Diana excelled in both Basketball and Track. She was chosen All-District Four AA and made the N.C.H.S. Tourney All-Star Teams in Basketball. She received the following honors in the high jump; 1st District Four AA, 1st in the Choctaw Conference, 2nd in North Miss., and 2nd in the State AA Class. In the Choctaw she set a New Conference Record of 5-1". At EC she is majoring in Liberal Arts. Her parents are Mr. & Mrs. Cleo Lyons of Philadelphia.

## Donna Carter

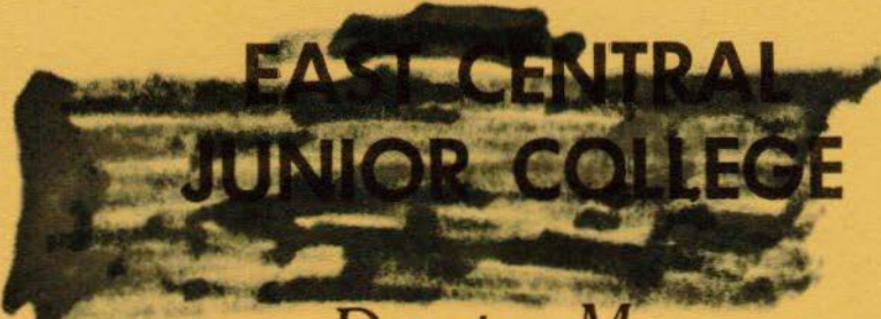
22 Noxapater Soph. 5-10 David Vowell

Donna was selected EC's most improved player her Freshman year. In high school she was All-Big Black 3 years, and All-District Four. Her parents are Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Carter of Noxapater and her field of study at EC is Physical Education.

## Debbie Pearson

23 Hickory Fresh. 5-8 Richard Harris

Debbie is a Pre-Law major at EC. At Hickory High, she was All-Cherokee Conference, All-District Five, and All-State. Debbie's parents are Mr. & Mrs. W.J. Pearson of Hickory.



**EAST CENTRAL  
JUNIOR COLLEGE**

*Decatur, Ms.*

**Warriorettes**

*1975-76*

**BASKETBALL**



**CHAMPIONSHIP TALK** — East Central Junior College women's coach Lucille Wood talks to some of her players during a timeout Saturday when they defeated Itawamba Junior College 86-77 for the state championship. It was the Warriorettes' second straight

win over IJC, having beaten the Lady Indians a week earlier in the North Division finals. Itawamba was defending state champion. ECJC, which won't advance to any further competition, ended the season with an 18-5 record. —Jane Tannehill Photo

# ECJC Ladies In Final

By BILLY TURNER  
Star Sports Writer

SOOOBA — There are many ways to win a basketball game. For all concerned, the best way is not to blow a 20-point lead, go into overtime without your two best players, then rally at the free throw line.

In the Mississippi Junior College Women's North Division Tournament here Monday night, East Central did all of those things and still won.

The Warriorettes defeated Northeast Junior College's second-seeded Tigerettes 90-85 to enter tonight's championship game against Itawamba, which beat Holmes 66-60.

With five minutes left in regulation the Warriorettes led by 10, but the lead slowly decreased as East Central continued its pattern of mistakes after running to a 48-36 lead at the half over the favored Tigerettes.

Then with a 73-67 lead and 3:25 left, the top gun for East Central, Evelyn Bender, fouled out of the game. That did more for the comeback effort Northeast had made since early in the first half than anything imaginable.

All Bender did in this second half was this: when the tight Northeast Press was broken, Bender did it; Bender was the sole Warriorette with the hot hand, though it's said she always holds the hot hand; she scored 16 of the 19 points East Central scored in the final half to the point she left.

But it was all over for the incredible girl. Even a masterful layup fired over the top of her head as she was turned completely towards her opponents basket had to be forgotten.

East Central had two options; quit and go home for the year, or fight back against the pressure. Already in the second half it had lost its top big girl, Diane Lyons to fouls. Now Bender!

For the next three minutes it appeared the Warriorettes had decided to quit.

Northeast, which had already beaten ECJC twice this season, tore apart the desperate Warriorettes with a press that closed the Tigerettes to within four with 50 seconds left.

East Central missed still another time, and Northeast increased its clutch shooting with a basket by Belinda Brown on a rebound hook from the left side.

Another Warriorette miss, and Northeast came down with a try for a tie. The try was good

with 15 seconds left, by Debbie Strickland from 10 feet.

East Central got one more shot at the bucket, but it fell short, so the two went to overtime tied at 79.

Not many gave the Warriorettes credit. Playing in the home of their greatest rival, East Mississippi Junior College, with the certain thought of the blown lead, East Central still had something left.

Northeast got its first lead since midway through the first period with the first bucket of the overtime. ECJC tied it before Northeast struck one last time for the lead at 83-81.

Enter Jeanette Barnes. A slight talent compared the flashy "Snoopy" Bender, Barnes burned in four free pitches and one bucket to push East Central out to a lead it couldn't lose.

The lead that had been erased so carelessly, began developing on the back of Bender and Lyons.

Lyons got 11 and Bender 13 in the opening period as the Warriorettes jumped out to a 44-24 lead at one point. But Lyons, a slender but very good rebounder, picked up her fourth foul with a couple of minutes left in the half. With her resting on the bench, Northeast made a run.

The Tigerettes cut it to 12 by the half, at 48-36.

Bender led East Central into the finals with 29 points, while Julie Latham and Barnes had 20 each. Brown had 22 and Mary Lindsay, Judy Ezzell and Janet Doom had 17 each for Northeast.

East Central (90)		Northeast (85)	
Player	fg ft tp	Player	fg ft tp
Bender	14 1 20	Strickland	3 0 6
Lyons	6 1 13	Churchill	3 0 6
Carter	1 4 8	Doom	6 3 17
Pearson	1 0 2	Ezzell	6 1 17
Latham	9 2 20	Brown	11 0 22
Barnes	8 4 20	Lindsay	5 7 17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28 12 90</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>26 12 85</b>

Score By Quarters  
ECJC 24 20 11-20  
NEJC 11 11 11-20  
Final: ECJC 90  
NEJC 85

## EC Women Win South

DECATUR — The East Central Junior College women entered as the South Division champion Saturday night by defeating Itawamba 90-90 at the ECJC tournament.

Joyce Williams led the Warriorettes with 20 points, while Esther Thomas 14, Debbie McBeath 11 and Rose Camans 15.

Linda Darty scored 36 points for Jones to lead all scorers, but the Lady Bobcats couldn't match the ECJC output. Karen Wherrick added 19, Vicki McDonald 12 and Tammy Bane 11.

East Central, 19-5, led throughout the game.

Both teams entered the overall state playoffs next week.

EAST CENTRAL (90) — Esther Thomas 14, Rose Camans 15, Joyce Williams 20, Debbie McBeath 11, Vicki McDonald 12, Heather Camans 11, Tracie Burt 11, Paul 11.

ITAWAMBA (90) — Linda Darty 36, Charlene Jones 11, Vicki McDonald 12, Karen Wherrick 19, Tracie Burt 11, Tammy Bane 11, Debra Bane 11, Paul 11.



**MAC GORDON**

## A Go

**TRYING TO CATCH UP** as the basketball avalanche slows down a bit:

You might say that it's been a successful basketball season for a number of this area's teams, especially on the distaff side.

When they gather at the river Wednesday in Jackson, no less than a half dozen teams of interest to east central Mississippians will be involved in the skirmishing for state championships.

Schools always like to see their name in print, so here they are — Lauderdale County folks West Lauderdale and Clarkdale, East Kemper High of Scooba, Noxubee County High of Macon, Forest and South Leake, plus schools like Mt. Olive, Winona and Runnelstown, places you might term as "borderline" east central Mississippi.

Area boys, of course, as a group weren't as fortunate, but there were among us many that had better than just successful seasons — Southeast Lauderdale's Tigers the best example. Jerry Coleman's Tigers had a letdown only about four times the whole campaign, and it's just unfortunate two of the times had to be in South Mississippi competition.

Of course, we do have one boys team that emerged as a state champion — the Leake Academy team up Madden way, and they are to be congratulated.

**AND LEAKE'S BOYS** aren't the only state champions — you've got East Central Junior College's Warriorettes in that league.

Not many folks thought Lucille Wood's crew could do what it did Saturday night — beat Itawamba for the state championship.

Sure, the Warriorettes had done it before. They defeated the Lady Indians a week earlier for the conference's North Division championship, but the game last weekend was all for the marbles, and surely Itawamba — state winner a year ago — wouldn't lose again, would it?

Indeed they would...

East Central's rise to prominence is just another good example of how good girls basketball is in this area. Most of the Warriorettes came from quality high school programs, some off the fine Hickory team of two seasons back.

But the team's super, superstar, Evelyn Bender, came off a team that wasn't exactly world-beaters in high school. In Bender's senior season, I — and I could be wrong this time, too — don't believe Newton won a game, despite Bender's all-state performance.

Bender, in the opinion here, was without a shadow of a doubt the best performer in the state junior college league this winter. She's as dead-eye a shooter as can be found, and quick as oil. You can imagine the senior colleges that are presently seeking her services.

Despite many of our teams falling by the

To: Coach Wood  
From: Warriorettes  
1975-76 in  
appreciation for all  
you've done for us  
this year.

Donna Carter  
Barbara Harrison  
Bonnie Hatcher  
Brenda Harabson  
Linda Quinn  
Vicky Cumberland  
Delbie Pearson  
Cheryl Hicks  
Julie Latham

Duda Crockett  
Diana Lynn



**EAST CENTRAL COACH LUCILLE WOOD**  
proudly accepts the trophy her team won for being the overall girls state champions in Junior College basketball. The Warriorettes defeated the Itawamba Lady Indians on the East Central Court 86-77. It was their second straight win over ECJC, having defeated them earlier for the North Division title. Itawamba was defending state champion.



**FLYING HIGH** — Newton's Evelyn Bender, goes up above everyone to sack two of her 26 points Saturday night as the East Central Junior College Warriorettes took the Mississippi Junior College championship by defeating Itawamba 86-77. Over the season Bender racked up 1,081 points in 42 games to give her a 26.7 average per game. The ladies from ECJC finished the year with an 18-5 record under Coach Lucille Wood.

Staff Photo by Lois Cooper

# ★ EC Takes Girls' State Title ★



*The East Central Junior College Warriorette Basketball Team won the State Junior College Championship Saturday night during the State tournament finals held at Decatur. The Warriorettes defeated Itawamba Junior College 86-77 for the title. It was the Warriorettes' second straight win over IJC, having beaten the Lady Indians a week earlier*

*for the North Division Championship. Itawamba was the defending state champion. High scorers during Saturday night's game, coached by Lucille Wood [front left] were Evelyn "Snoopy" Bender [No. 20] of Lawrence, Diana Lyons [No. 21], of Philadelphia, and Jeanette Barnes [No. 32], of Carthage.*

# ECJC girls win State Title



## IJC falls to EC, 86-77

by Terry Sanders

The East Central Junior College Warriorettes fought off a tough Itawamba team to capture the Girls' State championship title, 86-77.

The State finals were held at the East Central gymnasium, February 20 and 21. The final match between East Central and Itawamba was very close in the first half, with East Central taking a two point lead into the dressing room at halftime.

But then it was time for Evelyn Bender and the rest of the Warriorettes to take command of the game. Bender fired in 18 of her game-high 26 points in the second half, while Diana Lyons,

Jeanette Barnes, and Julie Lathem scored consistently through the contest. Lyons, a freshman from Neshoba Central, pocketed 23 points and Barnes pumped in 20. Lathem scored 10 points, and according to East Central coach Lucille Wood, played good defense. "Julie isn't really a scorer in the sense of an Evelyn Bender," said Wood. "But what she contributes to the team is tenacious defense. When she scores a few points that's a big plus for us."

The Warriorettes led in the first half at one time by ten points before Itawamba cut the lead to two. "We scored a lot of points in the last few minutes," lamented Wood. The Warriorette coach

also added that, "the major newspapers in the state made it sound like a mistake that we won. But we proved we could win the big ones, including the last 10 ballgames in a row."

Itawamba's Charlotte Jackson shared high game honors with Bender by also scoring 26. Jeanie Loyd had 24, and Lisa Hooker 10.

A nice size crowd turned out for the championship game; one of the few times in the year. Coach Wood stated that "the crowds were very disappointing this year." "It's not very often a team wins the state championship, and it seems that people would come to support their team whether they won or lost," she added.